

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 941

By Mumpower

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Charles Johnson Lowry,
Sr. of Bristol.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened and profoundly moved to learn of the passing of Charles Johnson “Charlie” Lowry, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Lowry was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who gave unselfishly of himself, his time, and his talents for the greater good of his family, his profession, and the greater Bristol community; and

WHEREAS, born in Green Springs, Virginia, Mr. Lowry graduated from Cleveland High School and attended Abingdon Business College; and

WHEREAS, his strong desire to travel led Charlie Lowry to enlist in the United States Marine Corps in 1933, when he was only nineteen-years-old; he valiantly served in China as part of the Embassy American Guard from 1936-38; he returned to China in 1945 for a second tour with the Marines and courageously served through a third tour of duty in 1950; and

WHEREAS, upon returning to the Bristol area, Mr. Lowry rendered sterling service with Armour & Co. until he joined the Bristol, Virginia Police Department in 1940, beginning a stellar career in law enforcement and security; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from the FBI National Police Academy in 1942, Charlie Lowry left the police force to develop the protective force for Universal Molded Products at their Bristol Aircraft Division; after a ten-year hiatus, he returned to security to organize the security force at the Sperry Farragut Corporation and serve as the company’s security manager. He also corresponded with famed FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover, on security issues; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lowry began his impeccable real estate career in 1946, and he served with acumen and alacrity as a real estate agent for more than fifty years, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and clients alike for the exemplary quality of his work; during his

illustrious career, he developed an impressive twenty-nine subdivisions and fifty-four commercial and industrial sites on both the Virginia and Tennessee sides of Bristol; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Lowry was a pillar of the Bristol real estate community; he helped found the Bristol Board of Realtors in 1948, serving as its President twice and receiving the organization's first "Realtor of the Year" award in 1957, a feat he repeated twice more in 1968 and 2003; his significant contributions to the Bristol real estate field were recognized when the Bristol Tennessee/Virginia Association of Realtors inducted him into their Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, he was also a member of the Virginia and Tennessee State Realtors Associations, the National Association of Realtors, the Bristol Home Builders Association, the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors, and the International Real Estate Federation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Charlie Lowry was a highly respected member of the greater Bristol community who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a civic-minded man, Mr. Lowry donated his valuable time and incredible talents to such noteworthy organizations as the Bristol Junior Chamber of Commerce, who named him Bristol's "Young Man of the Year" in 1949 and the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, which he had served as a director and distinguished member; he was also a charter member of the Christian Business Men's Association and one of the founders of the Haven of Rest Rescue Mission, and contributions to many other community organizations; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Lowry created a better future for the Bristol community by helping to mold the children of today into the leaders of tomorrow when he co-founded the Bristol Boys and Girls Club; he was honored by the organization for his generous efforts in 1950 when he received the Man and Boy Award, and in 2005 for his fifty years of peerless service; and

WHEREAS, friends and colleagues affectionately remember Mr. Lowry as an individual who gave unreservedly of himself for the betterment of society; and

WHEREAS, while an exemplary and diligent worker, Charlie Lowry always managed to balance work with play; he particularly enjoyed baseball and softball and was an accomplished player. He played with the team when he was stationed at Camp Miramar during his military service and pitched the only no-hitter against the Yorktown aircraft carrier team; sponsored and

played with his own Charles J. Lowry Real Estate softball team, which won several city championships; and played on a Parks and Recreation senior softball team; and

WHEREAS, a man of deep, Christian convictions, Mr. Lowry was a devout charter member of Edgemont Presbyterian Church, which he served faithfully for many years as an integral part of the church's youth activities; he further evinced his stalwart faith as a founding member of the Haggai Institute and was active in the Bristol Youth for Christ movement; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lowry leaves this world for a far greater one, where he will join his first wife, Irene Millard "DeeGee" Lowry; his stepson, John Vance; his granddaughter's husband, Jens Horn; his brother, Robert K. Lowry, Jr.; and his parents, all of whom preceded him in death; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Lowry enjoyed the loving companionship of his devoted wife, Daphne Marshall Vance Lowry, and was the proud father of Holly McReynold Chaffee and her husband, Arthur Wolf, and Charles J. "Johnny" Lowry, Jr. and his wife, Angeline Lowry; he was also the proud stepfather of Amy Vance and H.B. Beverly; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lowry was the devoted grandfather of Jack McReynolds and his wife, Valerie Connaughton; Charles J. "Chuck" Lowry III and his wife, Twyla Lowry; Marika Kimerer and her husband Jeffrey Kimerer; Elizabeth Horn; George Lowry and his wife, Shirley Lowry; and Nancy Boubaker and her husband Naoufel Boubaker; he also will be sorely missed and fondly remembered by his step-grandchildren, Ryan Vance, Sarah Vance, David Branson, Kristy Branson, and Nicholas Branson, as well as his fourteen great-grandchildren and his many beloved relatives in the Lowry, Marshall, Millard, and Vance families; and

WHEREAS, Charles Johnson Lowry, Sr., leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Charles Johnson Lowry, Sr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our deepest sympathy and offer our heartfelt condolences to the family of Mr. Charlie Lowry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.